

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

43-01

10-11-01

NEW ISP PROCEDURE CODE FOR HUMANE SLAUGHTER

I. What is the purpose of this notice?

This notice issues the new Humane Slaughter, Inspection System Procedure (ISP) code 04C02 (see attachment 1) to be used by inspection program personnel in cattle, sheep, swine, goat, and equine establishments.

II. Why did FSIS create this new ISP code?

The new code is necessary for consistent documentation of noncompliances related to humane handling of livestock in accordance with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and 9 CFR 313 of the regulations. This procedure code will not be scheduled by the PBIS system; however, inspection program personnel are to continue their daily verification activities related to the humane handling of livestock.

III. What do inspection program personnel continue to verify?

A. Inspection program personnel will continue to verify that an establishment meets the criteria set forth in 9 CFR part 313 of the regulations to ensure the humane handling and slaughter of livestock. Inspection program personnel also will continue to follow the verification instructions in FSIS Directive 6900.1, Revision 1.

B. Inspection program personnel are to:

1. observe livestock pens, driveways, and ramps for conditions that could cause injury or pain to livestock, and
2. when applicable,
 - a. observe handling of livestock,
 - b. observe disabled livestock and those unable to move,
 - c. verify that livestock have access to water and feed if held longer than 24 hours,
 - d. observe stunning methods, and
 - e. verify an establishment's corrective action when an inhumane handling and slaughter situation occurs.

DISTRIBUTION: Inspection
Offices; T/A Inspectors; Plant Mgt;
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OPI: OPPDE

IV. What do inspection program personnel do if they find noncompliance(s)?

Inspection program personnel are to take the appropriate regulatory control action as specified in 9 CFR 500.1 and 500.2 when they determine that the regulatory requirements have not been met. They are to document failure(s) to comply with regulatory requirements on a NR using the 04C02-procedure code and are to mark the "protocol" trend indicator.

V. What further enforcement actions may FSIS take?

Based on the nature of the violation(s) and in accordance with 9 CFR 500.3(b) of the regulations, FSIS may suspend inspection without providing an establishment prior notification because the establishment is handling or slaughtering animals inhumanely. The District Office will coordinate any such enforcement action.

Philip S. Derfler

Deputy Administrator
Office of Policy, Program
Development and Evaluation

Attachment 1

	<p>The establishment meets the criteria set forth in the regulations to ensure the humane handling and slaughter of livestock. Action is taken when either the establishment or FSIS determines that the regulatory requirements have not been met.</p>	<p>Part 313 500.1, 500.2, and 500.3 FSIS Dir. 6900.1</p>	<p>Observe livestock pens, driveways and ramps for conditions that could cause injury or pain to animals.</p> <p>To verify compliance, when applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe handling of livestock. • Observe disabled animals and those unable to move. • Verify that animals have access to water, and feed if held longer than 24 hours. • Observe stunning methods. • Verify establishment's corrective action when an inhumane handling and slaughter situation occurs. <p>Make determination about compliance with regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Document failure(s) to comply with regulatory requirements on NR and (when appropriate) take other action consistent with applicable directive(s).</p>
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